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adequate account is given of the growth of the Indian empire. The term United States does not occur in the index, but the account of the relations of Great Britain and the American government during the Civil War is full—accurate, and remarkably unprejudiced. The importance is clearly shown of Prince Albert's "prudent counsel" and of Lord Lyons "tactful serenity" in preserving friendliness between the two countries at the time of the Trent episode. There is a remarkable willingness to admit that the English government was not always right in its foreign relations and the annexations of territory in India sometimes meets censure, as made on too slight grounds. In our brief space, we may only touch on some other features of the book, such as the succinct and clear account of the two great religious events of the middle of the century; the Oxford movement and the Scottish disruption, or, in another field, of the Crimean War. The story of the Canadian troubles in the thirties is well told. Epigram sometimes appears, as when we are told that "Littleton was disposed of by that expedient so dear to embarrassed premiers—a peerage." We may doubt whether the conservative party began as early as Maxwell thinks to assume a favorable attitude toward rational reforms and whether that attitude has been maintained as consistently as the work asserts. A curious sentence on page 104 speaks of "Christians being prone to forget the charter and shibboleth bequeathed to them by their Founder," but such infelicities are rarely found. The concluding volume will be awaited with pleasant expectation and the work may be recommended as giving a good birdseye view of English history in the nineteenth century.

The Essentials of Self-Government. By ELLIS T. POWELL. (London: Longmans, Green and Company, 1909. Pp. vii, 309.)

The purpose of this elaborate essay is to study the mechanism of Parliamentary elections and to suggest improvements in its present condition. It is the belief of the author that the electoral mechanism is a potent factor in self-government and that its efficiency may be greatly increased by certain practical modifications. He discusses such subjects as registration of voters, distribution of seats, candidates and candidatures, election agents, election expenses, corrupt practices, illegal practices, the act and mode of voting, election petitions, and the dismissal of members, and shows in detail how the procedure or the machinery in each case might be improved. For example, he would place

the registration work in each constituency "in charge of a specially-appointed skilled official, devoting his whole time to the work;" he would have the distribution of seats in the House of Commons more frequently and more scientifically adjusted; he would limit candidature to a fixed period, and would include in the return of election expenses all expenses incurred in "nursing" a constituency; he would pay members of the House of Commons and would "banish the old and pernicious tradition of lavish election expenditure;" he would "restrict the bill-posting, both in character and amount" and would prohibit the employment of "sandwichmen;" he would have the expenses of newspapers, owned or controlled by candidates, fall into the statutory aggregate and be included in the return of expenses; he would have all elections held on the same day, would keep the polls open for a longer time, would prohibit the "besetting" of the voter, and would have all public-houses closed on election day; he would also "ennoble the act of voting" and would render the aspect of the polling booth "more inspiring by portraits of the great leaders of the race and by pictures of the great constitutional episodes."

While some of the suggestions appear to be too theoretical and complicated to be workable, many of them seem both practicable and advisable. Only the natural conservatism of the English people will stand in the way of their adoption.

The author has expended a prodigious amount of labor upon his book and students of the British political system will refer to it with profit.

T. F. MORAN.

The Condition of England. By C. F. G. MASTERMAN. (London: Methuen and Company, 1909. Pp. xi, 309.)

In ten well written and incisive chapters the author has attempted an analysis of present conditions in England from the social, economic, scientific, literary, and religious standpoints. Although not pessimistic, the study represents affairs in England as being in a serious and not altogether hopeful condition. The diagnosis, in the main, coincides with that reached by Price Collier in his "England and the English."

Mr. Masterman's delineation of economic conditions may be best given in his own words. "Such appear some, at least," he says, "of the characteristics of the various classes of society to-day in England. In general material condition there is little to excite foreboding. A